



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Deborah Gist
Commissioner

Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee

The Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee is an active voice in advocating that all students receive superior educational services enabling each student to achieve optimum success throughout the school years and into the world of adulthood.

**January 21, 2010
6:30pm – 8:30pm**

New England Institute of Technology
Hall of Fame Room
2500 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886

Meeting minutes

Present: Denise Ahern, Jeffrey Aubin, Wilfred Beaudoin, Ann Brockmann, Mike Burk, Barbara Chadwick, Joanne Eichinger, Deborah Garneau, Kathy Kuiper, Craig Levis, Kelly Marie Martin, Dorothy McDonough, Jane Morein, Ralph Orleck, Robin Pacheco, Mary Pendergast, Sharon Schubert, Lisa Shea, Jane Slade, Paul Stroup, Sharon Terzian, Louise Tillinghast

Absent: Deborah Ambeault, Kim Chouinard, Steven DiBiasio*, Amy Canario, Sheila Collins*, Marie Cumiskey*, Deborah Goessling*, Marty Morris*, Richard Moore, JoAnne Nannig*, Pam O'Brien*, Kellie Piche-Tatro*, Walter Sage*,
*gave advance notice

RIDE: Melissa MacDonald

Guests: Dr. Susan Woods, RIDE

Call to Order, Welcome, Agenda Review:

Announcements

- *Global Medicaid Waiver task force meeting 1/25/10 Monday CCRI Rm. 4080 1-3pm*
- *A thank you note was passed around from Louise and Cory Tillinghast for all the well wishes.*

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Approval of the November 2009 Meeting Minutes:

- *There were no corrections and the meeting minutes were approved.*

Director's Report:

- *RISEAC representation participated in the public forums regarding Race to the Top. Rhode Island's Race to the Top Application was submitted Tuesday Jan 19, 2010. We hope to know by April 2010 if our application was successful.*
- *Districts have begun submitting their policies and procedures for restraint as requested by the Commissioner in her field memo to Superintendents earlier this month.*
- *The Regents' strategic plan has been approved and available on our website.*
- *Additionally, the approved Educator Evaluation standards are on our website as well as the approved code of responsibility.*
- *Commissioner Gist will be addressing ARIASE Jan 22, 2010 at their general membership meeting.*
- *There are two Autism events scheduled for March 3, 2010 and March 23, 2010. RITAP website has more detailed information and you can register online.*

Old Business:

- *Community Forum Report Out. A suggestion to draft an advisory letter for the Race to the Top Application.*
- *Question concerning how IEP could be a legal document without signature. This will be forwarded to Ken Swanson and he will check with RIDE legal.*

New Business:

- *RISEAC would like to extend an invitation to David Sienko to present at the March or April meeting depending on his schedule.*
- *RISEAC would also like to extend an invitation to Commissioner Deborah Gist to attend a future meeting.*
- *February RISEAC meeting will be to update sub-committee work.*
- *April meeting date will be changed from April 22, 2010 to April 29, 2010 due to school vacation week. Motion approved and seconded.*
- *State Performance Indicators Presentation – Dr. Susan Wood, RIDE*
RISEAC members were provided copies of the Draft Indicator Highlights to complement full text Draft report, Part B of State Performance Plan (SPP)/Part B State Annual Performance Report (APR) for (7/1/08-6/30/09), and a visual aide for input and notes.

Questions and discussion followed:

- *Indicator # 4 Rates if suspension and expulsion: group asked for clarity around definition of suspension and if it includes in house suspensions.*
- *Indicator # 12 Completion of IEP by age 3 when a child is found eligible from Part C to Part B. Deb Garneau will provide a synopsis for Ralph Orleck concerning the issue of late referrals to the Early Intervention Program.*
- *A question was asked if there would be any federal funds used to develop a statewide Data Collection System that all schools could access in Rhode Island. Currently, each*

district has autonomy and is responsible for its own technology to collect data/IEP. Discussion continued that teacher's and administrators of Out of District Placement schools have a real challenge in developing IEP goals and progress if they cannot access student's home school data system. RIDE is currently looking to hire a person to run a Statewide Data Governance board to facilitate the exchange of information using technology. This would be a valid comment to bring forth to the board.

- *A letter will be sent to Dr. Susan Woods thanking her for her excellent presentation explaining the data that drives the State Performance Plan. Highlighted would be that as a state Rhode Island is moving in the right direction.*

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Recording Secretary: Kathy Kuiper
RISEAC website: www.riseac.org